

diaLOG 30.2



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dialog is the student community paper of george brown college. we offer a unique opportunity for our students to gain valuable skills and experience in the trade as they attend the college. full and part-time students are welcome to apply. don't pass up a chance to gain experience and an opportunity to meet other students!

INFORMATION SEMINARS

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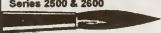
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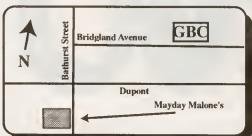
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Friday, September 11

ROCK the BLOCK

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10 am- 5pm Block Party
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Join us for interactive games and a free BBQ
All Students, Faculty and Staff are welcome

Dialog is a Member of the Canadian University Press (CUP). Contributions to Dialog are always gratefully accepted. Written work can be hand-written or in plain text (TXT). Images should be on Mac platform in EPS format (please specify if created in Photoshop or Illustrator). It is requested that you submit a hard copy of your work with the disk. Opinions expressed in Dialog are not necessarily those of the Dialog Collective, the Student Association of George Brown College, or its editorial staff. Dialog will not publish any material that attempts to incite violence or hatred against individuals or groups particularly based on race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age or disabilities.

A chance for real democracy!

by Allan Stokell
Editor-in-Chief
Dialog

Things have been looking up recently. I've got over the mega-city. I can handle downloading and bill 160. 'Why?' my friends ask me, 'are you so happy when our world is falling apart? Don't you know about the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)?'

Dear friends, I, too, was upset. Each day was a fight. At night I couldn't sleep. But now that I have fulfilled a life long dream, I am so happy I could cry. I have joined my local provincial Progressive Conservative Riding Association.

Back when I was pimply and eighteen, I joined the Young Progressive Conservatives. After all isn't that what all young immigrants do? In Willowdale, (formerly North York) apparently

not. Pimples, immigrants and those whose parents didn't have pools or cars were not welcome. That was the last time I flirted with conservatism.

The sixties, seventies, eighties

and most of the 'nineties flew by. I have been too busy organising boycotts, having GOOD relationships, operating small businesses and having a family to bother with those old

Conservatives. Now I am 50, I look back on my past mistakes and seek absolution. While the teens who shunned me 30 years ago have gone on to sterling jobs at banks with record profits, and



industry fighting for MAI, I in fact, have little covetable to show for my wasted life. I looked and felt like John the Baptiser in sackcloth, who screamed to the bankers and industrialists of his day; "You snakes! You are unworthy!"

But that has all changed. Now I am a member of an elite group of power brokers. I no longer view Dave Cooke as a traitor. The peons of the province will cringe when I speak. I will have the ear of Mike Harris. I will join the thousands of other new Tories, a surprising number of them teachers, health care workers, seniors and single welfare mothers. It's good to see intelligent and powerful groups that feel no ill will towards my New Party. I will commit to memory the words of Lord Acton: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Now we will have real power! Arise Welfare Mothers! Arise seniors, taxpayers, the homeless! We will be able to elect our executives, send delegates to conventions to vote for Mike Harris as the leader of our glorious party and in many ways support Mike's neo-conservative policies. Squeeze kids; you can join the Young Progressive Conservatives! I tingle all over just thinking about all those single mother pool parties and the easy access to fund-raising dinners at the convention centre. As those silly socialists protest outside, I will walk to the head table to be seated beside the premier. NOT!

But now we can make real change instead of spare change. It will cost you somewhere between five and twenty dollars to join the riding association. I highly recommend pan handling to get the dough. A sign that states, "Need Money to Join PC Party" might help. Once you're in, (according to the PC propaganda), you'll have an opportunity "to express your opinion at policy conferences and be able to network with other members in various fields and professions." And don't worry if you know nothing about politics. "Many new members are overwhelmed and feel they must know everything before they sign

up. Not true! Some people join to help make their views known. [and] some join for philosophical reasons."

Want to join today? Call, with a touch tone phone; (416) 861-0020, extension 108. You should know the name of your riding association. To do that, go to the World Wide Web and type www.OntarioPC.on.ca. When prompted give your postal code. Don't know your postal code? [Mark it up](http://www.ontario.ca) and click here.

Maybe you should join
Libertarians.

time of new beginnings and adventure. Though I plan to die an educator, I'm quite

**Janet Morrison, Executive Director
George Brown College Student Association**

George Brown College Student Association

despite the best of intentions, my columns always seem to evolve this way. It's late Sunday night, three days after the Dialog deadline has passed and I am just now starting to hit my creative groove. Having been writing for a variety of student publications for over six years...it seems I must be forced to the point of productivity by the ultimate consequence...the threat of omission. This is particularly strange for someone not prone to procrastination. It's not that I don't think about it beforehand. I do. It's just that the actual pen-to-paper part takes time and more than a little undue influence.

Nonetheless, here I am, after 11:00 p.m. on a school night, writing in the dark on our patio after a long dinner and too much wine. There's an electrical storm rumbling in the distance. It's warm (no rain yet), there is a strong breeze blowing, the crickets are screeching all around the yard and the sound of moving water (albeit chlorinated, filtered pool water) is familiar and soothing. I love this weather. There is something about late August that I've always found enchanting and special. Undoubtedly, after 25 years on an academic calendar, this time of the year symbolizes the end of summer, or my rejuvenating period, and the onset of fall, a

time of new beginnings and adventure. Though I plan to die an educator, I'm quite certain that I will live out my days by the cadence of our prescribed learning cycle regardless. From age four, September has brought with it the need for new shoes, clothing, school supplies, a backpack and lunch-pail. I have always loved the excitement of the season and—to this day—await the Labour Day weekend with excitement and more than a little trepidation.

The excitement part is easily explained: I love to learn and was raised in an environment where learning and exploring were prioritized. For those of you who share these passions, college is the ideal environment. Welcome to paradise. If we are successful in our mission, your time at GBC will challenge you to think about the world in new ways and empower you to reason and render informed decision. When it works, post-secondary education fosters students in a unique way. The old adage that: "this is the time of your life" is not far from off-the-mark. This experience—the people you meet, the things you learn, the connections you make, the support you seek, even the money you spend (all the money you spend)—will combine to leave you forever changed.

learn more than you ever cared to know about my eclectic family through a regular reading of *Planet Janet*. All too often, they are the butt of my attempt at humor and the source of my inspiration. Truth is, my familial experiences have afforded me lots of opportunity to learn from diverse cultures, values and lifestyles. When I think about the power of education, a particular family friend comes quickly to mind, a single mother formerly wholly reliant on social assistance with five children: three female and two male. All of the females were sexually abused by their father during the formative years, and at ages 17, 20, and 21, all have at least one child, all outside the confines of a stable emotional or financial environment. This, in my view, typifies the cycle of poverty and the long-lasting, true devastation wrought by such unspeakable domestic violence. Amazingly, however, this 40-something mother of five, grandmother of four and source of strength for an entire family, found the time and energy to pursue an undergraduate degree at McMaster, part-time.

I always found it amazing that with all the undeniable stresses in her life, she chose to invest in her education at an undeniably cost. I clearly remember months when she didn't have enough money for a phone, leaving my mother and other concerned friends to search horrendous Hamilton in search of her newly relocated crew of dependents. The moral of the story? She did it. After years of hard work and sacrifice

dateRAPE

By Clark Staten

Like the Quaaludes of the '60s and '70s, there is a new "love drug" being abused in several parts of the country. The drug is Rohypnol, or "Roofies", as it is being called on the street. It is also called "ruffles", "roche", "R-2", "rib", and "rope" and, reportedly, is quickly becoming the "date rape drug of choice."

Rohypnol is a brand name for flunitrazepam (a benzodiazepine), a very potent tranquilizer similar in nature to Valium (diazepam), but many times stronger. The drug produces a sedative effect, amnesia, muscle relaxation, and a slowing of psychomotor responses. Sedation occurs 20-30 minutes after administration and lasts for several hours. The drug is often distributed on the street in its original "bubble packaging" which adds an air of legitimacy and makes it appear to be legal. The drug is not commonly used by physicians in the United States and is not even listed in the commonly used Physician's Desk Reference.

Ilicit use of Rohypnol was originally reported in Europe in the late 1970's and world-wide use of it has continually increased since. According to police sources in both Florida and Texas, "roofies" were first seen in the United States in the early 1990's; they quickly gained acceptance and use by both high school and college students. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), more than 1,000 cases of illegal Rohypnol possession have been reported recently in thirteen states. Reports have also been received of it being popular in "gay bars" in selected locations on both the East and West coasts. In fact, Rohypnol is now being reported as being one of the "in" drugs on high school and college campuses and particularly in college fraternities. To make matters worse, "Roofies" are inexpensive and reportedly being sold for as little as \$2.00-\$4.00 per tablet in several locations.

According to a University of Florida drug hotline, "Roofies" are often combined with alcohol, marijuana, or cocaine to produce a rapid and very dramatic "high". Even when used by itself, users can appear extremely intoxicated, with slurred speech, no coordination, swaying, and blood-shot eyes...with no odor of alcohol. The drug has been added to punch and other drinks at fraternity parties and college social gatherings, where it is reportedly given to female party participants in hopes of lowered inhibitions and facilitating potential sexual conquest. Police departments in several parts of the country say that after ingestion of "Roofies" several young women have reported waking up in frat houses with no clothes on, finding themselves in unfamiliar surroundings with unfamiliar people, or having actually been sexually assaulted while under the influence of the drug.

As insidious, disgusting, and perilous as this may sound, the dangers don't stop there. Besides the worries of unprotected sex, Rohypnol, particularly when mixed with alcohol or other drugs may lead to respiratory depression, aspiration, and even death.

When taken repeatedly, it can lead to physical and psychic dependence, which is thought to increase with both dose and duration of use. The amnesia producing effect of "Roofies" may prevent users from remembering how or why they took the drug, or even that they were given it by others. This makes investigation of potential-related or other offenses very difficult, and may account for repeated reports of "date rapes" involving the use of the drug.

Editor's note: This article was originally published on-line, and has been shortened and edited for diaLOG. To read the entire article, check out the hyperlinks.



www.emergency.com/roofies.htm
www.teenchallenge.com/main/drugs/rohypnol.htm

erratum

In our Summer Issue we misspelled the name of Franky Chemin, Student Success Coordinator at George Brown College. The Dialog Collective deeply regrets that error.

Survival Strategies: Proven Hangover Cure!

By Sejal Parikh-Shah, B.Sc., N.D.

Even the best of us have at one point or another regretted drinking too much the night before. That terrible splitting headache that occurs after a night of heavy partying can be prevented with a few helpful hints.

Know your drinking limit. If you feel a buzz starting, this may be the time to stop drinking or at least slow down; otherwise, you know you are headed for trouble. Of course, the best prevention for a hangover is abstinence.

If you plan on drinking, try to nibble on something while drinking. This helps to dilute the concentration of alcohol in the blood. Eating does not mean that you can drink more, but it can help to prevent the following day's hangover.

Hangovers are usually caused by an a combination of over-consumption of alcohol, dehydration, and an unreactive liver. Make sure you drink plenty of water, all night long and before you go to sleep. Alcohol, as well as carbonated beverages can dehydrate a person. Alcohol is a diuretic, this means that it makes you want to urinate more, as a result you become dehydrated quickly. By making sure that you are well hydrated, concentration of blood with sugar can be prevented.

Vitamin B complex can be depleted when one drinks excessively. Supplementation with B-complex especially thiamin can help to prevent hangovers or at least lessen the intensity of the hangover headaches.

Some liver friendly herbs can be beneficial for ensuring that the liver is working at its optimal level. This will ensure that excessive amounts of alcohol are eliminated efficiently. Some liver friendly herbs are dandelion, milk thistle, yellow dock and turmeric. These herbs help the liver work more effectively.

Last but not least, remember the last time you suffered from a hangover. Is the excessive drinking worth it? Have fun during fresh week, and remember not to drink and drive.

Sejal Parikh-Shah B.Sc., N.D. is a doctor of Naturopathic Medicine practicing at Front Street Naturopathic Clinic at 132 Front Street.

The clinic will be open in October for Naturopathic consultations. She can be reached at (416) 362-1000. In the meantime she can be reached at her private practice office in Richmond Hill at (416) 720-9670.

letters

When it comes to your brief history of mister George Brown I can only paraphrase the caption of the picture that accompanied your article, "Get it #@%& right!" With one sentence, alone, your whole dissertation was shattered! Your astounding lack of Knowledge of the subject is showing.

A brief glimpse of the character of Mr. George Brown might lead to an understanding of why unions were formed and the struggle that was waged to recognize the rights of the workers. When the staff of the GLOBE went on strike for a 48-hour week, ol' George brought down the power of the Law upon them and had their leaders arrested for unlawful assembly.

So much for a "fighter for freedom, justice and equality."

As a matter of fact, Brown died from complications arising from a gunshot wound inflicted by a disgruntled ex-employee that had been fired on the suspicion of drinking on the job.

Had that one sentence not been there, I might have merrily hummed the Hallelujah Chorus as I read your sermon. As it is, the "organ" which "will sing with pride" needs a little tuning.

tdineen@gbownc.on.ca

Strike Averted

College Faculty and Management Reach Tentative Agreement

It appears that classes will be held as planned for full-time George Brown College students. Mediator Al Heritage announced that Ontario's community college teachers, represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and college management reached a tentative settlement early in the morning of Friday, August 28, 1998.

The new agreement is subject to approval by both teachers and management. If approved, the new agreement will expire on August 31, 2001.

Well cubbies it's going to be a laugh-a-minute, fun-filled ride this month at George Brown College. Let's start off with Rock the Block (St. James campus, Friday, September 11th). Imagine an entire city street blocked at both ends with stages. Then think about entertainment, food, and beverages. A great place to meet that special someone or renew last semester's friendships. Free shuttle bus service is being provided for Casa Loma and Nightingale campus.



students. Everyone is predicting that this will be the party event of the season so be sure to come out and Rock the Block.

Speaking of rocking, if you can take more then head out to the **Campus Pub Grand Openings** (Sept 17th, Casa Loma, Sept 30) Both pubs are newly renovated and offer the best in entertainment and brews. If tournaments are more your speed, check out the grand daddy of them all, Medieval Times (CNE grounds, 260-1179) you get a 12th century-style meal, (bring your own fork, if you don't want to use your fingers) as well as a show involving men dressed in masks, wearing feathers and doing something with horses. Just up the hill from the Casa Loma campus is **Spadina House**. (285 Spadina Road, 392-6910). Show you're not from out of town by pronouncing it spad-eena. Nightingale students might like to check out **The Grange**, a marvelous historic house, immediately behind the Art Gallery of Ontario, at Beverley and Dundas Street West.

If

you think the **Dialog** is a very well done paper and especially if you think it's a silly rag, we invite you to come out to information sessions on how you can help make it better.

Throughout the year, we will be sponsoring informational seminars on various aspects of producing a community newspaper. Call 415-2710 for details.

The Toronto Islands are a short ferry ride from the Queen's Quay docks, but a world apart. No cars are allowed on the roads and the connected islands are mostly parkland with a small

sticks...Meadowvale and Hwy 401, 392-5900) This one competes with the Bata shoe museum (see Dialog 30.1) for a day-long time-waster.

How about a famous haunt? **William Lyon MacKenzie House** (82 Bond Street, 392-6915) questionably is one of the few historic houses in Toronto with a resident ghost. It is reported to be old William Lyon himself still raging against the Family Compact (not a Ford Escort but the Tories)

Lights, camera, action, movie stars! **The Toronto**

If you need some small



refreshment after a difficult class, check out our special pull-out section of licensed establishments in the downtown area. Please

always tell them that you saw the ad in George Brown College's Dialog Community Newspaper.

For you culture-vultures we got things a happen downtown. **graphicARTS** (a GBC club) is shakin' at the

legendary Horseshoe Tavern (368 Queen St. W) on Thursday, September 17, 9 pm with Gangster Politics, Qeda Vida, The Salads, and Chronic Tickets \$ 5 at the door or Room 254E at SJ. You must be 19+. Let your hair way down with **Mozart & Sallier**, an operatic paraphrase, September 10-13 at the Robert Gill Theatre, Koffler Student Centre, 214 College St., (978-7986), Students \$ 5.

And now for something completely different. Many first year and a surprising number of returning and part-time students don't know about a world of friendly resourceful people at the Student Association. The SA is not a college department, but a separate organization run for and by students of this college.

Besides administering our health plan, they run pubs, give mean barbeques, organize orientation week activities, help organize clubs and various interest groups, run boutiques, and hundreds of other things

students need while

their in school..

The SA even have a lawyer on staff if you need some legal advice.

The best part about the SA is that you get the whole package (including this newspaper) and it comes out of the fees you have already paid. Everyone here at the Dialog urge you to take full advantage of your Student Association...they truly are here for you. Oh, one more thing while we are giving free advice. Read the Student Handbook you will be getting this week. It is a instruction booklet for college life. It is a resource for what to do, who to see, and in which order you do it in. More info on the SA from the webmaster at members.tripod.com/~sagbc

And finally, if you remember when 'The Elmo' ruled, (not to be confused with Tickle Me Elmo!) you will get a kick out of the new Rock and Roll Landmark series playing at the El Mocambo (Spadina at College). Catch 'The Toilet Boys with Robin Black and the Intergalactic Rock Stars on September 10 (10 p.m.) \$ 5.

Watch for more happenings in the city in the next issue of Dialog, on the newsstand and in the red boxes, on September 22nd.



community of artists and malcontents living in year-round cottages at waters edge. To add to the magic, there is a small and non-threatening amusement park known as **Centrefire** (Centre Island, just east of docks, 203-0405.) It is open weekends only in September, but well worth a visit for the plume ride and the century-old merry-go-round.

Can't live without a zoo? Take a very long transit ride to the Metro Zoo (way out in the

International Film Festival (Sept. 10-19, 968-FILM) rolls into town with some world-class movies and Hollywood-style parties. Catch the action all around the city.

If you liked the movie, you'll love the thrill. Bring an extra pair of underwear to the **Cinesphere at Ontario Place** (314-9900) 'cause *Titanic* is being projected onto their huge screen. Thrill to Leonardo's nostrils flaring 30 feet high! By the way, the boat sank.

Student Affairs invites all George Brown College students to a series of quick Tips and Workshops September 14th-18th. More info and sign up at Casa Loma Campus room C221, at St. James room 578C, and for Nightingale talk to Olive in the Counselling Office.

HOOKERS on Shuter



by Allan Stokell

becky, as she likes to be known, used to have "a real job." That was before she smoked her first crack cocaine. Now she sells her body on a road beside the housing development where she lives with her boyfriend Nick. They are both heroin addicts. They are 24 and 27, respectively.

Becky grew up in a middle class neighbourhood in some faceless suburb. She hadn't yet graduated from high school when a friend turned her on to crack. "It was a blast!" she exclaimed between drags from her cigarette. "Those were the good times." Times haven't been that great for her recently.

After her mother caught her stealing to support her habit, she moved downtown to be closer to the action. She started turning tricks in a most unusual manner. While living in a squat downtown, she met a friend from the suburbs. They got smashed and he suggested they go back to his place for sex.

When she woke up the next morning, he had already left for work. There was a fifty dollar bill on the kitchen table with a note saying "I wanted to buy you roses, but the florists wasn't open." She used the fifty to get more crack and soon she had a number of "boyfriends" who helped her support her habit. I am enjoying the romanticized version of Becky's life so much I hesitate to remind her that it is 7:30 in the morning and she is standing on Shuter Street in Toronto's tawdry looking like death and offering blow jobs for \$20. I don't call her on the story but instead probe for a few more details.

It seems she met Nick while she was working the streets. They had a lot in common, only he had already done time in jail for break and enter, and theft. Seems he had to sell something more tangible than Becky and he couldn't sell the same thing over and over either. He'd got hooked on heroin while in jail. He celebrated his release from the service of the state by cleaning out his bank account and going on a fortnight-long 'horse' binge. At the end, he had no money, no place to go, and he was HIV positive.

We are interrupted by the presence of a slow moving police cruiser. Becky starts walking up Shuter Street towards River Street. "They keep buggin' me," she complains, "I never did nothin' t' them."

What Becky said is true. For the most part, street hookers are themselves victims. Sometimes they are victimized by a pimp, other times by their clients, who often like to get rough, or not pay. Recently three prostitutes have been murdered in our city; two of the crimes remain unsolved. When it comes to those who practice "the world's oldest profession," society often treats them with disdain. Neighbours don't like seeing hookers in their neighbourhood, and the whores themselves are often not too scrupulous about disposing of the issue of their profession. Walk the mean streets and you will see disposed needles, and soiled prophylactics. Not the best places to walk a

two-year-old child who picks up everything that has fallen from the sky.

Although she denies being HIV positive, Becky is certainly in the high risk category. She claims she never has unprotected sex, and always uses a clean needle, but is very fuzzy when asked just how she cleans a needle. Her face shows the trouble she has had in her short life. Already lines are showing around her lips, and her arms and legs are scabbed by the tracks of too many needles. Her hair is naturally brown, but she recently had it dyed red in a vain effort to attract a more upscale clientele. It is now browning out at the roots and the effect is anything but flattering.

At this point, Becky suggests that my presence is bad for business. I retort that if anyone from work sees me, they may think I am in the habit of communicating for the purpose. I offer a coffee and we walk the short block to Queen Street in search of Java.

We settle into a booth at a nearby greasy spoon. The owner eyes us suspiciously. She still tries her theory of an elaborate come on. I'm not really a writer, but merely in search of sex. I assure her that I am happily involved with someone else and am not in the habit of making direct payments for acts of pleasure.

The horse is now morphing into a monkey and it is showing signs of landing on Becky's shoulders. The pain and suffering of her small hopeless life is becoming too great. She needs another booster to jump her from the reality of the gutter to the heroin induced dream of a call girl. She has made the jump many times but she is showing signs of weakening. On the street, as in the forest, only the strong and wily survive. The weak become the victims of the swift and sure, or carrier for the vultures. Although she denies it, I believe Becky, too, is HIV positive. A combination of bad living and poor diet is already eating away at her yet undead flesh.

As we parted outside the diner, she put on her best face, and trucked back to Shuter Street. I never saw Becky again. There is a new hooker standing in her place today as I bike by. I stop and ask. She is perplexed. She doesn't know anyone named Becky. Has she returned to her suburban dreams or succumbed to her distillate of poppy addiction?



- www.walnet.org/csis/news/toronto-96/torsun-960604.html
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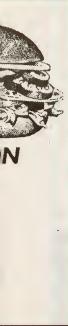
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sound guide

By George Vajna

School has finally started again! Here are reviews of some summer releases, in case you missed them.

NATALIE IMBRUGLIA - LEFT OF THE MIDDLE

Is it unfair that Natalie Imbruglia (pronounced Im-brew-lea) has been compared to Alanis? Not really. On her latest single "Wishing I Was There," she'd swear it was Alanis, if nobody told you otherwise. Actually, almost half of the songs sound like Alanis. She attempts hip-hop on "Leave Me Alone," complete with the pops and fizzes of vintage vinyl. You'd swear it was Portishead if nobody told you.

The slow and moody "Pigeons and Crumbs" does grow on you after repeated listening, though. There is nothing much else to recommend on Left Of The Middle. People expecting to hear the pop styling of the great, but overplayed, first single "Torn," (everyone from 102.1 to 104.5 to 107.9 played it) will probably be disappointed.

GRADE: C

MADONNA - RAY OF LIGHT

Madonna has been getting raves for her new album, Ray of Light. Ever since she reached her creative peak with Like a Prayer (not only Madonna's best album, but one of the best albums of the eighties), Madonna has made lackluster albums. Recently she has felt the need to veer towards the dance direction. Erotica was a good, but not great album, and Bedtime Stories was plain embarrassing. Where does that leave Ray of Light? Many critics have said it is the best album of her career. Is it? Far from it! Many of the songs start off quietly, and then, predictably, the dance beats take over. "Substitute For Love" and "The Power of Good-bye" are good ballads, and "Sky Fits Heaven" is catchy. "Frozen" is what saves the album from sinking. Its electronic

backdrop and lush strings push it far beyond generic dance music. Too bad the rest of the album cannot keep up.

GRADE: C

GARBAGE - VERSION 2.0

People who listened to Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins were probably surprised to hear how pop-friendly Garbage's first album was. Producer Butch Vig (also produced Nirvana and the Pumpkins), and founding member of Garbage did not lay on the angst ridden guitar of those other artists. The album opens with the great "Temptation Waits," which is probably one of Garbage's most catchy songs. "Special" resembles girl groups like the Bangles and Go-Go's from the 80s. Garbage is at best when it doesn't let the production take over the song. Songs like "Hamming In My Head" and "Dumb" sound cluttered and busy. The album works best when the production is simple, like on "The Trick Is To Keep Breathing" (the album's "Milk") and "You Look So Fine."

GRADE: B

JESSE COOK - NARADA

Fellow Torontonian, Jesse Cook, has proved, with his second album, Gravity, that he is not a second rate Ottmar Liebert. Gravity is a great album that matched, if not surpassed, anything Liebert has done. It is probably one of the best albums in the Flamenco/Latin genre (Fans of Gypsy Kings, also take note). Narada is not as assured, but there are some magical moments. Holly Cole's guest vocals on Sting's "Fragile" rips the original to shreds. Cook's arrangement brings the song's melody to the forefront. One can really appreciate the beauty of the cello after hearing "Cancion Triste."

"Allegretto" is nice and "Rattle and Burn" ranks among Cook's best upbeat numbers.

The main flaw with the album is that Cook seems to recycle the melodies and riffs from his previous albums. Still, when Jesse Cook is good, he is really good

GRADE: B

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS - ADORE

Adore is an album Trent Reznor would make if he wanted to sound like The Smashing Pumpkins. Starting with their NIN-esque track on the Lost Highway Soundtrack, it seems the Pumpkins have also jumped on the NIN bandwagon. Fortunately, like the Tea Party, they have used Reznor's sound to their advantage. "Ava Adore" gallops along nicely, and equals anything NIN has done. "Fear" and "Chrestfallen" are also highlights. There is not one heavy track on the album, and most of the songs are mellow, folky, and dare I say, sappy? Silly lyrics on "Appels + Oranjes" aside, this is a fairly competent album, although Smashing Pumpkins fans may be disappointed. Maybe if Billy Corgan would have let his other talented members help out with song writing, it would have made a good album even better.

GRADE: B-

TWENTIETH CENTURY BLUES - THE SONGS OF NOEL COWARD

Many people may not know that playwright Noel Coward (who wrote such plays as Hay Fever and Blithe Spirit during the '20s through '50s) was also a songwriter. Every one, from Paul McCartney to Suede, and from Elton John to Pet Shop Boys, participate. Artists like Texas, The Divine Comedy, and Pet Shop Boys

add dance elements, while John, McCartney, Brian Ferry, and Sting do straightforward traditional renditions. Brian Eno and Neil Tenant from the Pet Shop Boys (who also executive produced this fundraising project) lend a hand to Robbie William's "There Are Bad Times Just Around The Corner." As good as the song is, one wonders how much better the song should have been with the talent involved. "Someday I'll Find You" by Shola Ama (who sounds exactly like Mariah Carey) is the highlight of the album. Coward may have been witty and ironic writer, but he did not weave a good melody. The artists try their best to interpret this dated material, and many succeed.

GRADE: C+

LENNY KRAVITZ - 5

Lenny "one man band" Kravitz once again gives us a nostalgic blast from the past. He does his best Depeche Mode impression on "Black Velvetine." Although the use of such lyrics like "electronic clit" are unintentionally hilarious, the song ain't half bad (Although Duran beat the concept on their last album). In fact he sounds like someone else on almost every song. "Supersouffleighter" (Blaxploitation movies), "Take Time" (Gary Numan), "Straight Cold Player" (James Brown), "Live" (Sly and the Family Stone). The first single, "If You Can't Say No" is among Lenny's best songs, but he puts those darn "bleeps" up front in the mix, that after a while can be annoying. "I Belong To You" and "It's Your Life" are also excellent. Critics have always given Lenny a bum rap, and although he may not be original, he is one of the few artists that can make the past seem fresh. Many people have also accused Lenny of being a poseur. Well, if he is a poseur, he is the best poseur I know.

GRADE: B



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back to school!!! We can't believe that a whole summer has passed and it is time, once again, to "hit the books". Let us provide you with some reviews of hot flicks that have just hit theatres. You know, just in case you have absolutely nothing to do with your time (like studying, working...).

Slums of Beverly Hills
Opening: August 28, 1998
Starring: Alan Arkin, Marisa Tomei, and Natasha Lyonne

He said: I wasn't sure what to expect from a movie I was so unfamiliar with. Truth be told, I wasn't even aware of its genre. But I was more than mildly surprised by the caliber of this film. The Slums of Beverly Hills offers more to its audience than many of the films that have graced the silver screen recently. Well written and directed, this film has something that I haven't seen for sometime: an outrageous, superbly written cast of characters brilliantly brought to life by a first rate group of actors. There are no poorly acted or written characters in this film. Each is as unique as the performance that brings them to life.

The story centers around a low class family who are constantly moving from apartment to apartment within new and varying slums in Beverly Hills at the drop of their father's hat.

At the center of their chaotic family upheavals is Vivian (Natasha Lyonne), the sole daughter of single dad, Murray (Alan Arkin), and sister to two brothers. Vivian is desperately trying to adapt to life on the move, her loyalty to her father and, being a teenage girl in the thick of puberty. She is also attempting to cope with the physical changes her body is experiencing. With the sudden addition of her catastrophic cousin (Marisa Tomei) the films life and energy mount to hilarious proportions. In my opinion the film, its director and writer, as well as Arkin, Tomei, and Lyonne, all deserve serious Oscar consideration.

Grade: A

She said: Beverly Hills isn't all swimming pools and movie stars. At least, not for the Abramowitz family. For them, it's all about moving "after dark," lunching at Sizzler, and breasts. Big ones.

In the movie, life is tough for divorced dad Murray Abramowitz (played by Alan Arkin). He continually attempts to find a better life for his three children but, as he finds out, it's tough to feed your kids when you constantly have to swallow your pride. Yet, what keeps this family together is the resilience of his

daughter Vivian (Natasha Lyonne) and her two brothers, Ben and Ricky. For them, life is a series of hopes and dreams in the midst of constant chaos and upheaval.

Filled with hilarious scenes throughout, "Slums of Beverly Hills" is a great pick for those of you who can always see the forest for the trees. And I would also like to say "Good show" to "He." This time he actually managed to stay awake!

Grade: B+

Ever After: A Cinderella Story
Starring: Drew Barrymore, Angelica Houston and Dougray Scott

He said: I had questionable expectations for this film. All the trailers made Ever After: A Cinderella Story out to be a medieval counterpart to the most recent Romeo and Juliet adaptation. And while I enjoyed the later, I was highly surprised by the turn around Ever After delivered. It was nothing like William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. It was better. Considerably so.

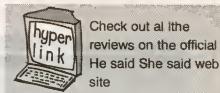
This film is the bright spark in an otherwise grim summer line-up. All of the performances were on the mark in terms of characterization and

creativity. Barrymore was a surprise as the stubborn and passionate Danielle, and Angelica Huston brought the idea of the "wicked stepmother" to life as no one else could. Dougray Scott's Prince Charming adds a touch of realism. This is how I would picture a Prince to be. Not the scurvy backwater fools fallen off a GQ cover that is usually represented. For that, the film deserves credit!

Grade: A

She said: Well, for once I can concur with "He" completely. I too was skeptical when I first saw the previews for this one. I mean, making a movie about "Cinderella" in the era of Monica Lewinsky and Paula Jones. You can't be serious. But I was captivated by the strong portrayal of the fairy tale character by Drew Barrymore. And hey, Prince Charming can come "rescue" me anytime.

Grade: A



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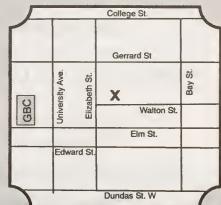


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diaCRIME

By Esperanza Esposito

"I call the 546th meeting of the crime writers club to order." So spoke Michael Spears, president and member in good standing. His knowledge of crime was unquestioned. As a police detective, he had been involved in solving some of Toronto's most heinous crimes. After accepting early retirement, due to a social indiscretion, he went on to an illustrious second career as crime writer and film consultant. He is the third president of the Crime Writers' Club. He followed Peter Gormley and Agatha Grimes. A lineage of unquestionable royalty.

Members of the club quickly disposed of the last meeting's minutes and other bureaucratic work as they were in a hurry to get to new business. News of 'the perfect crime' was to be explained.

Iliad Jones had been a member since 1974. He had written only one novel. Since then he had been living off the avails of the television series of the same name and his wife, a well-known raconteur. About a week ago, the Crime Writers' Club web site had become plastered with news that Iliad was working on his second novel. After an absence of two decades, this news was welcomed by everyone, especially his bartender, as it often seemed that the notorious mister Jones could never manage to clear the bill, and it was becoming an embarrassment to all concerned. Iliad, when contacted, was all too willing to discuss his previous victories. Sadly, they were limited to one novel, but most people were under the impression that he wrote, or at least came up with the ideas for the television series of the same name. Nothing, of course could be further from the truth. The truth was that some twenty years ago Iliad was the witness to one of the stranger murders to grace the social columns of the city's papers. He had a certain writing ability attained by his years at the University of

Toronto and his association with the school rag known as *The Varsity*. He managed to purloin his awesome memory and a mediocre sense of the novel into enough money for him to marry well. After that it was all downhill. His wife, busy, forgiving and not wishing a scandal, paid the bar bills when necessary, provided him with an automobile, and a credit card. He rarely stuck to his end of the bargain, which was to service her large sexual appetite, as he found alcohol made his dick soft. Given a choice between an aging wife and the bottle, Iliad had chosen the later and dreamed of a come back.

He had been thinking of the perfect crime since 1984. That was the same year that he discovered that he had never been in love with his wife and found her to be an uncomfortable match. This discovery sent him on a serious bender and it had been more than year later before he was sober enough to consider a mistress. Divorce, of course, was out of the question. Both he and she had been brought up High Anglican. This meant sex was for procreation and divorce an unacceptable social faux pas. The Bishop of Toronto had married them in St. James Cathedral. His admission that what God had put together, no man should break apart had thundered through the cavernous space along with the only loophole in this ecclesiastic contract: "Until death do them part."

The mistress had been a disaster. Choosing one from the same social order was not all that difficult. After all there were as many bored housewives as husbands at their club. His choice had been the very blonde and erotic wife of a friend. They had known each other for many years and Iliad had lustful after her. She had something about her that made men become suddenly erect. Each angle of her near perfect face and body was to be admired. She had had many lovers but never one with the problems of Iliad. The

affair was annulled soon after it began.

And so, dear readers, we find ourselves once again at the 547th meeting of the mystery writers' club. Iliad Jones was about to stand and tell of the perfect crime. I should explain at this point that over the years there had been many members who had brought what they considered to be the perfect crime forward for consideration. The usual way of treating these treatises was to bring a motion forward during new business. The member was allowed to explain fully the modus operandi, and then, members had an opportunity to find fault. To pick holes in a crime; to say why it was far less than perfect. Over the years many members had presented to the club, yet not one had walked away without substantial criticism.

A titter fell on the gathered members. Iliad Jones rose and walked to the podium. He glanced at the gathered literati, the executive of the club he had been a member of for almost twenty years. He placed his notes on the podium. Placed his left hand on the oaken edge and looked up to view the now hushed crowd.

"Motive, alibi, actions. These are the trinity, the cornerstones of the perfect crime. You want your wife dead because you stand to inherit millions. That is motive, you kill her, that is the action. That no one suspects or can prove you are responsible is the alibi. That is the perfect crime." At this point he jogs his notes against the podium and prepared to leave. There was a sudden whirlwind of actions. The president, incredulous, stands "This is outrageous. Although what you say is true, this could hardly be argued as the perfect crime. There are no details. Nothing to show that a crime committed could not be proved by the police. We need details of this alleged perfect crime." Iliad was now a few feet from the podium. He bowed towards the president and returned to the microphone.

"Alright then. So you shall have it."

"I want my wife dead. I will inherit her substantial fortune. For months now, she has been planning her attendance at a conference in another city. She is a keynote speaker for the Independent Electrical Producers Association and as such has been bragging to her friends and associates. She is expected in Guelph this very weekend, where she will speak on non-utility generators and how they fit in with the deregulation of Ontario Hydro.

I have planned this murder for a very long time. I knew she would be staying at the Holiday Inn in Guelph along with other delegates, so three weeks ago, I drove up there and checked in under a false name. I paid in cash and stayed only a few hours, long enough to check out the hotel and steal the bed sheets and pillowcases. You see, these days with DNA testing and everything, it would be obvious to investigators if my wife had not slept at the hotel.

Last night as she slept on Holiday Inn beds and pillowcases, my wife met her maker in the most humane fashion I could muster. The disposal of the remains was fast and final. There will not be a corpse to direct the constabulary. Today as a matter of record, she is a delegate at the Independent Electrical Producers Association. She picked up her credentials from the conference, and she checked into her hotel room. Forensics will show she spent the night there. However, as of tomorrow she will be missing. She will fail to deliver her keynote speech on how non-utility generators will fair in light of deregulation. Husbands are the first suspects. I, however, have established a singularly great alibi. I have been addressing the members of the Crime Writers Club on the subject of the perfect crime."

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Dr. Date

First Date Jitters

I've observed that many of you poor souls never ask anyone out because you're frightened of spending four uncomfortable hours with someone you don't know. While that someone has the potential to be wonderful for you, they could also be a creep. Fear of rejection stops many of you as well. You figure you'll just be dumped, used or played, so why bother? All these things can happen, but they don't have to happen to you.

A first date should be fun, light-hearted and non-committal. Think of your first date as meeting a new friend. Anything could happen in the future (sex, marriage, crime spree), but for now keep it simple and plan fun activities that allow you to talk and get to know each other. This could be as simple as coffee at the Bayou or as elaborate as the opera. What you do is up to you, but it should reflect your personality.

Concentrate on what's happening right at that moment and forget about what could happen. What follows are a few thoughts and suggestions on how to make your first date a great date.

prepare your mind

Most people want to have great conversations on a first date. If the banter is dull now, why continue? While it seems silly to create chemistry, you can take a few steps to put yourself in the right frame of mind. Drink water to prevent headaches. Give yourself some meditative time to relax and free your mind. Read a good book to get your mind working. It doesn't matter which book, you're not going to be quoting. When you read you're actually talking silently to yourself, which will prepare you for better conversations later. Any activity that puts you in a good mood will work, so slap Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass on the turntable and shake your little booty.

prepare your body

We are just animals after all, and most of us pay attention to how we look. It's fun to dress up, but ask yourself who you're dressing for. Dress for yourself in a way that makes you feel confident and comfortable. It makes little sense to dress specially for your date if that's not how you dress normally. Same goes for excessive bathing and grooming.

Exercise is a good idea, too. The point is not to buff up or lose weight in just one day. Exercise (some aerobic activity that makes you sweat for about twenty minutes) will get your blood flowing and help you feel loose and healthy.

don't freak out

Many people don't like first dates because they feel like they're on display and under scrutiny. This causes anxiety to wax and natural

behavior to wane. I even knew one person who hyperventilated on a date. Somehow, my friends, you've got to relax. Keep in mind that everyone is nervous on a first date. Find a way to convert that nervous energy into positive behavior.

I have three methods of countering anxiety: First, I assume that for every insecurity I'm battling (dumb joke, crooked jaw, doomed repetitive romantic folly), my date is struggling with her own neurosis. This helps me realize that we're all human and we've all got problems. My second method is to imagine I'm naked and drink shot after shot of hard liquor. If that doesn't work, my third method is to actually get naked and giggle uncontrollably. The first method has proven to be the most successful.

safety

When you date a person you don't know that well for the first time, take control of the situation to avoid danger should your date start to strip and giggle. People all have different expectations going into a date, and while you might never think of kissing, your date may have much more in mind. Avoid bad dates from the start by becoming friends first so you understand what's going on.

Plan daytime activities in public or go out with a group of your friends. Carry a quarter (arggh! 35 cents my ass!) for the phone and have enough cash (at least \$15) for a cab ride home. Alert your friends and roommates to your plans and let them know when you get home safely. Avoid situations where you are helpless, kissing.

This is personal choice and no rule exists that covers every person's situation. Some like to take the physical aspects of a relationship slowly and build friendship first. Others have little problem with kissing on the first date. Both paths can work, but there's really no need to rush things. Take your time and make that first kiss a doozy.

sex

As with kissing, this is all up to you. If you do have sex, be smart and be safe. To wait is not only a respectful gesture, but it may actually improve your chances of marriage. A recent study found that couples who waited at least six months to have sex were more likely to get hitched than couples that didn't or couldn't wait.

I have no problem with first date sex as long as the participants are both willing and understand what the other really wants. Don't assume anything. Unfortunately, just because you sleep with someone, that doesn't mean they ever have to talk to you again. Also, don't assume you are owed sex just because you bought your date dinner.

fortUNES

ARIES (March 20–April 19)

I'm thinking of someone you know. They are taller than you, with deep eyes and a powerful brain. Ask them to be your mentor. The wisdom of their years can be shared. This will be an experience you will remember always.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20)

Love lasts an eternity, sex for a brief few fleeting minutes. Are you gratified by a brief intense encounter? Stop watching the clock while you are making love. Love lasts forever, sex for a few fleeting minutes. Wear a love glove.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20)

Your granny is kinda pissed off! What have you been doing? Don't go through her drawers. They contain memories not to be shared. Take her for a walk in the sunshine. Tell her you love her.

CANCER (June 21–July 22)

We sit in the brilliant spring light at Stonehenge. Our eyes meet. ZOOM CLICK. We have locked in, but for what? His breath smells of decay. You don't believe the Bleaker people. Is this just a communal calendar? Lay back, take a deep breath. Listen for further instructions.

LEO (July 23–August 22)

You are inside a wooden box. There is a muffled sound of people talking. You hear an organ and the sound of singing. Suddenly it comes to you. This may not have been a very good day, but it might be your last. But hark, the priest is saying that you shall not die but have everlasting life. Shit! Here comes that damn Everready bunny! You awake in a sweat, bolt upright.

VIRGO (August 23–Sept 22)

When last we met, it was upon Ilkley Moor. Wolfe the dauntless hero came, and did those feet in ancient times come

riding, riding? The poet in you atrophies. Words are expelled from your TXT maker without copyright or trademark. Ooooh, I think you stepped in an apostrophe.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22)

Why do you hang around with those grunts? Get a hair cut that makes you look sexy and kiss off the nose ring. Jump up Latin and hit the Highlife. Wait a second...what are you doing reading someone else's fortune? Everything I write for you is "personal and confidential."

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21)

You weren't born rich but there is no doubt you will die in that state. Spend your money while you still can enjoy it. Travel to Provence in the spring, then head on to Venice. Get a haircut.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 20)

Learn QuarkXPress and do your mails. Lots of people will be looking over your shoulder and personal grooming does count. Stop buying the nip of vodka at lunch; plan something else for the afternoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec 21–Jan 19)

We stood eye to eye, death and me. She peaked in the ribs, I slashed at the spiff in her jaw. You're safe for today but I'm not sure about tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18)

How often have you felt that thing in your pocket today? You're fixating on it. Greek men have worry beads, you have that thing. Yuck!

PISCES (Feb 19–March 19)

You've been fantasizing about sex haven't you? I can tell from the glow on your cheeks and the sweat on your palm. Release all that tension, you're a mess!

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elvisLOG

Day 93

It's hot as hell in Memphis in the summer of 98. The rollers drive air conditioned cars and won't get out for any reason. Festis got pulled over for going through a red light ("But it was amber, officer!") and when we stopped they used their loud hailer and told us both to get out of the car with our hands where they could see them. That's where the shit hit the Tennessee fan cause Festis went straight into a Blues Brothers scene. Hit the gas, floored it, and left them smokeys sittin'.

They would have caught us, but as Festis drawled "They could turn off their air conditioning for extra power, but they won't."

So now we need plates, cause Ontario is sticking out like an albino chicken. We whip over to the Windixie parking lot. Festis thinks he has to wear camouflage to rip off a set of plates. He chooses Illinois because it's the only state we've been in on this road trip where we are not wanted by the law. Turns out to be a bad choice cause BMWs come with alarms as standard equipment. I spot a red faced kraut-eater running towards us at a pace suggesting German car ownership. We beat a hasty retreat followed closely my an enraged citizen bent on making an arrest. The only thing worse than rollers are citizens cause around here they've got guns too.

Day 97 I'm complaining to Festis about the lack of Elvis sightings as we whip dinner from the mall. We decide that we've been out to long and we best drop by Grace Land to pay our respects before we turn ourselves in. As is our habit, we return to the handicapped parking space to find the rollers are towing the Magic wagon. (TM) Now, this is where I ask you to take a deep breath for it requires a great leap of faith. I fall on the ground and Festis yells at the top of his lungs, "Oh my Gaud, my wives having our baby!" The diversion works so now we've got both a 1996 Ford Diesel tow truck and a Magic wagon on the hook behind. I think they're looking for us.

As soon as I catch up with Festis I tell him that I saw Elvis. While I was writhing

in false agony on the floor just outside the mall, a great crowd gathered to watch. Mall eaters are real good at gathering around and watching things cause when they are not at the mall, they are glued to the tube. Anyway, I'm on my fanny faking an orgasm cause I've never given birth, and don't know what it's like. I look up to see 'The King' standing over me. He kneels in front of me and says in a perfect Tennessee accent, "Mam, the paramedics are comin' real soon." I close my eyes and scream with joy. This only makes me appear closer to childbirth. As soon as I hear "Oh my Gaud, someone's stealin' the tow truck" I hop up and say, "Oh, must have been gas", and walk away.

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